

SHORTER NOTES

The Identity of *Asplenium macilentum* Kunze ex Klotzsch.—*Asplenium macilentum* was first recognized by Kunze and validly published by Klotzsch (Linnaea 20: 351. 1847), citing six syntypes. Morton and Lellinger (Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 15:18. 1966) designated a specimen of unknown collector and locality (Herb. Willd. 19890, B) as lectotype. This specimen is consistent with the protologue in the described elements for the identification of the species. Moore (Ind. Fil.: 115. 1859) regarded the epithet *macilentum* as a variety of *Asplenium auritum* Sw.

In modern Floras for the Neotropics, this species has been considered as a synonym of a variety of *A. auritum* (Morton and Lellinger, Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 15:18. 1966) or as a distinct species (Proctor, *Ferns of Jamaica*: 381. 1985; Adams, *Flora Mesoamericana*: 290–324. 1995). Smith (*Flora of Chiapas* 2:48. 1981) affirmed that some plants identified in herbaria as *A. macilentum* greatly resemble *Asplenium monodon* Liebm. He also introduced the criteria of number of spores per sporangium and morphology of spores to differentiate *A. auritum* and *A. monodon*; 64 reniform spores per sporangium characterize *A. auritum*, while 32 globose spores per sporangium typify *A. monodon*. After a revision of the isosyntype (Moritz 183, from Venezuela, UC), Smith (1981) reported large globose spores for this specimen, which probably should be referred to *A. monodon*. He also found that another isosyntype (Schomburgk 1168, from Guyana, UC), has small reniform spores, consequently referable to *A. auritum* s.s. Mickel and Smith (Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 88:107. 2004) further discussed the identity of *A. macilentum* and stated that since the spore morphology of the lectotype had still not been studied, it was “imprudent to place the name”.

Spores from the lectotype (Herb. Willd. 19890, B) were examined with the Scanning Electron Microscope Phillips SEM 515 (15kw), in the Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum of Berlin-Dahlem. Spores from this specimen proved to have the same morphological ornamentation of *A. auritum* (Tryon and Lugardon, *Spores of Pteridophyta*: 545, Fig. 212. 22. 1991; Regalado and Sánchez, Grana 41:111, Fig. 3 A, E. 2003): a psilo-lophate perispore with thin ridges limiting lacunae of foveolate or perforate surface (Fig. 1). Mean values of spore length measured along the major equatorial diameter of this specimen were (29–) 33.2 (–37.4) μm , falling within the range ((30–) 35.6 (–47.5) μm) measured from nine Cuban specimens of *Asplenium auritum* (unpublished data). The removed sporangium contained 44 spores, but the sporangium had already opened. For this reason, *Asplenium macilentum* should be treated under the synonymy of *A. auritum* and not under *A. monodon*.

***Asplenium auritum* Sw.**, J. Bot. (Schrader) 1800 (2): 52. 1801. TYPE: [specimen].—JAMAICA, Swartz s. n. (lectotype selected by Morton and

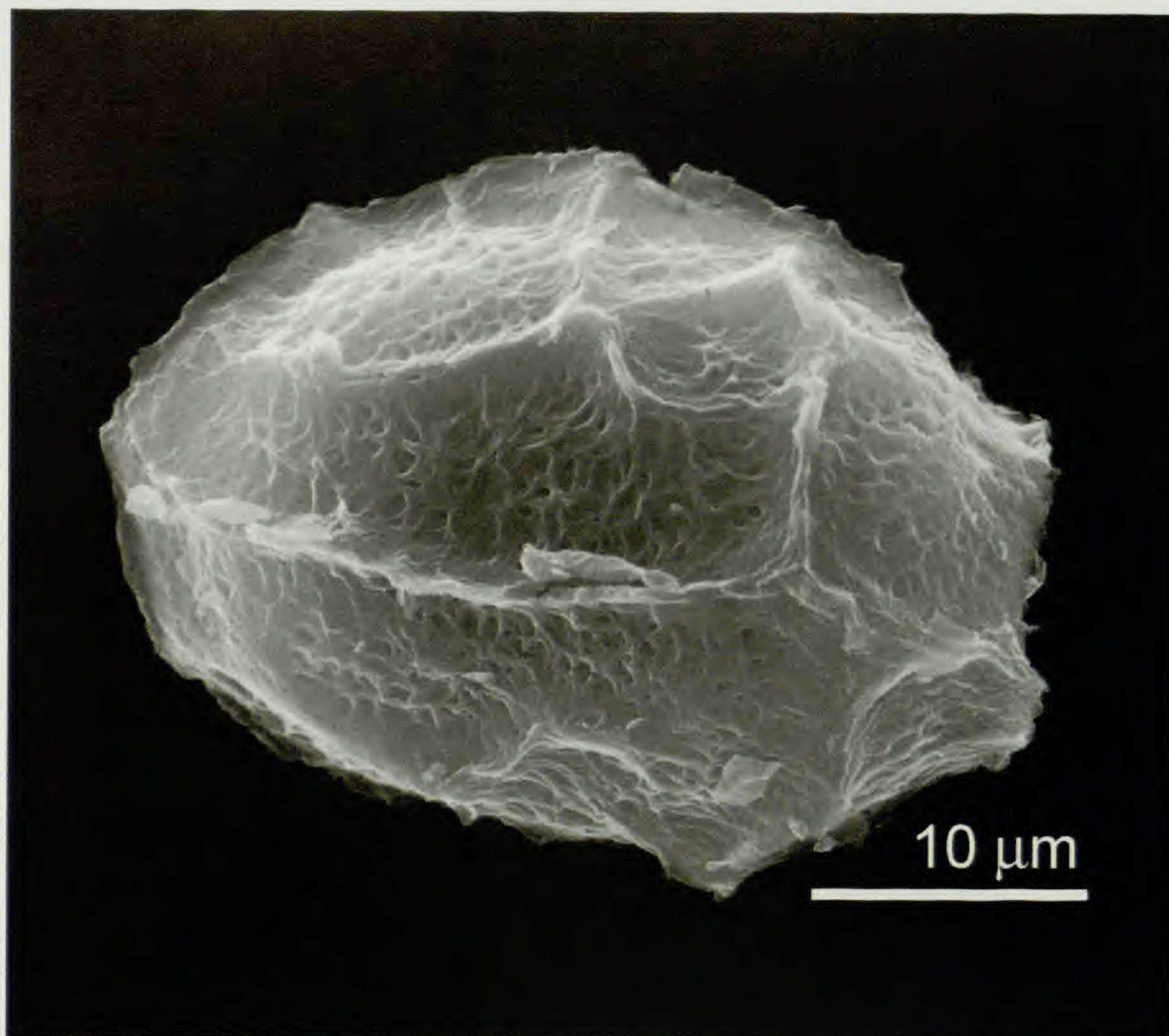


FIG. 1. Spore morphology of the lectotype of *Asplenium macilentum* Kunze ex Klotzsch (19890 B).

Lellinger 1966:18, R-450 S!; isoelectotypes: UPS Herb. Thunberg 24781, 24782).

= *Asplenium macilentum* Kunze ex Klotzsch, *Linnaea* 20: 351. 1847. TYPE: [specimen].—Collector and locality not stated (Lectotype selected by Morton and Lellinger, 1966: 18, B-W 19890!).

= *Asplenium auritum* var. *macilentum* (Kunze ex Klotzsch) T. Moore Ind. Fil. 115. 1859.

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